United Nations E/C.2/2010/2/Add.38

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 April 2010

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2010 regular session
26 May-4 June 2010

Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Korea Women's Associations United

(Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The aims and purposes of the Korea Women's Associations United are to build an equal society free from institutional discrimination in which women enjoy equal rights with men and live with dignity and pride; build a democratic society where political, economic, social and cultural rights are fully guaranteed; and achieve peaceful reunification of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea.

The main courses of action are advocacy and lobbying for gender-responsive law and policymaking, including gender policy consensus-building activities among diverse women's groups, public hearings, conferences, workshops, meetings and press conferences and releases; local, national and international campaigns, signature collection and cultural events; organization of gender training events, and capacity-building programmes for women's movement activists; and support for local grass-roots women's organizations.

The organization has changed its name in English from Korea Women's Associations United to Korean Women's Association United (the acronym remains the same). An official letter will be sent.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work for the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The organization participated in the Beijing + 10 review at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Representatives attended the session and a meeting of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the feminization of migration in Asia, with a focus on women's human rights. It submitted a Korean NGO shadow report for the consideration of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its thirty-ninth session, during its review of the report of the Government of the Republic of Korea. The report revealed problems such as female irregular workers, revival of an institution that gives an advantage to men who have finished compulsory military service, loose legal regulations on international marriage brokers and a lack of measures for women in the sex industry. Representatives of the meeting were present during the examination of the Government's report. The organization submitted an NGO report for the universal periodic review to the Human Rights Council in January 2008. The report requested the Council to recommend to the Government of the Republic of Korea to address the following issues: concerns regarding the abolition of the Ministry of Gender Equality; the large proportion of female irregular workers and discrimination based on type of employment; human rights protection for victims of domestic violence and appropriate punishment for offenders; amendment of civil law relating to joint property ownership and divided ownership between married couples; revision of law

to promote political representation by women; enhancing support for single mother families; introducing recognition of the sexual rights of disabled women and strengthening their capabilities.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Director of Gender Policy of the organization attended a regional workshop on gender-responsive budgeting, organized by the United Nations Development Programme in November 2005 in Sri Lanka.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization carried out the following activities relating to the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 3: In 2005, formation of a "Global call to action against poverty in Korea" (June 2005); request addressed to the Government of the Republic of Korea to increase official development assistance, which was 0.06 per cent of gross national product at the time (2005), twice by 2009 and four times by 2015; civil society organizations worked actively to promote interest and participation in implementing the Millennium Development Goals and organized campaigns such as White Band Day to promote the meaning and importance of the Goals; launch by the organization of a campaign to abolish the feminization of poverty to address social polarization and poverty of women.

In 2006, in-depth interviews held with women with low incomes and publication of a promotional leaflet. In 2007, training of organizers to work with poor women and establishment of an organization to address their needs; holding of a national meeting for single mothers with more than 500 participants; bringing child rearing, home making and nursing services to approximately 3,000 single parent families (2007-2008); request made to presidential candidates for development of a policy on poor women; adoption of a bill on national pensions for elderly citizens, which requests provision of a pension to people over 65; and revision of the Single Parent Family Support Act to extend the range of grandparent-grandchild families receiving Government support and that of children who should get support through the efforts of the organization and civil society. In 2008, education on elimination of poverty among women, society and the economy; publication of an economic textbook and provision of economic education to more than 400 people; proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament thanks to the activities of the women's movement, including the Korea Women's Associations United, rose from 5.9 per cent to 13.7 per cent (following a revision of the election law in 2004, the size of the assembly increased and 50 per cent of it was allocated to women according to a list based on quotas).

2. Maharashtra Foundation

(Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The Maharashtra Foundation continued its activities at a steady pace over the course of the four years. In addition to processing earmarked contributions from donors, the Foundation continues to work through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on combating human trafficking, women and youth empowerment, providing safe drinking water for schoolchildren, helping rural elderly people, constructing rural hospital, and running a helpline for women.

The NGOs are expected to send a progress report every six months and future disbursements are contingent upon satisfactory performance in the previous period. Almost all the NGOs have been sending their reports on time and the Maharashtra Foundation plans to make them available on its website.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Foundation contributed to the implementation of Millennium Development Goals in India and the United States of America, carrying out the following activities:

Three projects to combat human trafficking addressed prevention and rehabilitation. The People's Institute for Rural Development works with adolescent girls in 30 villages near Latur, promoting awareness, village libraries and health check-ups and preventing school dropouts. Save the Children India works in the Amaravati district to create a support network for vulnerable people and offers training to stakeholders. Apne Aap works in Mumbai to prevent the daughters of prostitutes from entering into the profession, providing educational, nutrition, health, and personal development support. All the three projects have requested further support as they were making real progress on the ground.

The Swayamsiddha project provided mentoring to women and young people to make the right choices about their future lives and careers by giving access to education, information, networking opportunities and microfinance through self-help groups. This project was carried out in 10 villages and is in its second year.

The project to supply pure and safe drinking water benefited from an extended grant beyond the contribution of $8,000 from the Foundation, which allowed provision of pure and safe drinking water in 50 schools, reaching approximately 10,000 students.

The rural aging project addressed the challenges faced by the ageing population in rural areas, rather than the more usual urban focus. The project is carried out by Janseva Foundation near Pune. A baseline survey of senior citizens in nine villages was completed and health check-ups, temporary eye clinics, and minor surgeries were organized. Support group networks have now been formed.

The Khedker hospital project involves building a cottage hospital at Anjanvel in Ratnagiri District. The construction of a nursing home and an outpatient department is nearing completion and the second phase of construction, a 20-bed hospital, will begin soon.

Maytrin, a helpline for women, has been in service in the United States of America for more than a decade. It has a small annual budget of about $4,000, and the number of calls received and appreciation of users in the United States and India are indicators of its success and continued need.

3. Society for International Development

(General; 1981)

I. Introduction

Created in 1957, the Society for International Development is a global network of individuals and institutions concerned with development that is participatory, pluralistic and sustainable. The Society has over 3,000 individual members in 80 countries, 55 institutional members and 51 local chapters. It works with more than 100 associations, networks and institutions involving academia, parliamentarians, students, political leaders and development experts, at both local and international levels. This makes it one of very few organizations that have a holistic, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach to development and social change.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Society, through both its secretariat and its worldwide network, attended the Beijing + 10 review at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women; the fifty-eighth Department of Public Information-Non-Governmental Organizations Conference on "Our challenge: voices for peace, partnerships and renewal", held in New York in September 2005; forty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development on the priority theme "Review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty"; thirty-second session of the Committee on World Food Security; United Nations meeting of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on climate change and development (New York, November 2007); yearly sessions of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development; and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy (Rome, 2008).

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Society contributed to *Women and the Politics of Place*, which analysed women's economic and social movements. In cooperation with UNESCO, the Society carried out research on women and conflict, which resulted in a collection of essays in the recently published book *Political Conflict and Women in South Asia*.

The Society carried out a reproductive health programme in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund. In 2006, the Society organized the Interregional Workshop on Public-Private Sector Partnerships for Reproductive Health, held in

Colombo, where participants examined strategies and opportunities to create an environment where reproductive health is a fundamental right for all people.

In cooperation with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Society carried out work on internal displacement of people in Kenya in the context of the post-election violence in early 2008. The Society published a report on gender responsive budgeting in four constituencies in Kenya, which was launched by UNIFEM.

In partnership with UNRISD, the Society published volume 49, issue No. 2 of its journal, *Development*, "Funding Social Change", in June 2006.

C. Activities in support of global principles

The Society has been actively implementing United Nations resolutions, furthering the debates lead by the United Nations system and jointly organizing activities with the different bodies and agencies. These activities include: the Society's fiftieth anniversary International Congress, "Reconciling the dichotomies of development: ways forward". The Congress reviewed the progress in implementing the Millennium Development Goals and discussed the problems of global governance. The Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme made a statement during the opening plenary meeting. The event was made possible thanks to the financial support of UNFPA, among other donors.

D. Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

In March 2005, volume 48, issue No. 1, of the Society's journal *Development* was devoted to the Millennium Development Goals. Events organized by the Society to debate the progress of implementing the Goals included a series of lectures at universities in the United States of America, a debate in Haiti on "Millennium Development Goals and healthy habitats", and a national seminar in Bangladesh focusing on "The Millennium Development Goals and the most disadvantaged".

Development devoted volume 51 to the theme of environment and development. The theme was also the focus of a series of lectures organized by the Society's chapter in the Netherlands and of a lecture by the President of the Society on "Climate, scarcities and development". The Bangladesh chapter hosted a speech by one of the lead authors of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Ottawa chapter organized a lecture by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

An international conference on global security and sustainable human development was held in the Netherlands in 2006, featuring a critical look at development cooperation, social and economic justice, poverty and security, one year after the 2005 United Nations World Summit. At its 2008 annual gala dinner, the Washington chapter of the Society honoured the Administrator of UNDP with the Washington Award for Leadership in International Development for his contribution to the international development community.

4. Trauma Foundation

(Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The Trauma Foundation is a founding member of the International Action Network on Small Arms and has been a constant participant at the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Founded in 1981, the mission of the Foundation is to reduce injuries and injury-related deaths through prevention and improved trauma care and rehabilitation. The Foundation's prevention activities have focused on injuries and deaths from firearms. In California, the Foundation's work with local communities and state policymakers has resulted in bans on junk guns (1999) and .50 calibre sniper rifles (2004), as well as other small arms control measures. In 1998, the Foundation founded the Bell Campaign, the first national survivor-led gun control movement in the United States of America, which became part of Million Mom March in 2000. Since 1998, the Foundation has received funding for research on international gun control issues and has provided information to the international gun control community through the Foundation website (www.traumaf.org).

In the period 2005-2008, the Foundation's Director of International Outreach published several studies in support of the United Nations Programme of Action in the Pacific, including "Trouble in paradise: small arms in the Pacific" and "Gun violence, crime and politics in the southern highlands" (*Small Arms Survey 2004*), "Gunrunning in Papua New Guinea: from arrows to assault weapons in the southern highlands" (Small Arms Survey, Special Report), and "Papua New Guinea: small numbers, big fuss, real results" (*Contemporary Security Policy*, vol. 29, No. 1).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

One or more representatives of the Trauma Foundation, as a non-governmental organization (NGO) delegate on the Government delegation of a Member State and/or as regional representatives of the International Action Network on Small Arms, have attended and often presented research findings at the following United Nations events: (a) Peace, Justice and Reconciliation in the Asia-Pacific Region Conference (Brisbane, Australia, 2005); (b) Gun Summit, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Goroka, Papua New Guinea, July 2005); (c) United Nations Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and opening of the Small Arms Survey diplomatic event (New York, July 2005); (d) United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, 2006); (e) New arms control policies, keynote address, United Nations Centre (Buenos Aires, December 2006); (f) testimony before a public hearing on gun control in Argentina (National Senate, Buenos Aires, December 2006); (g) Armed conflict abroad, but also at home: global action to prevent gun injury, Conference on Global Action to Prevent War (Brisbane,

Australia, February 2008); (h) Third United Nations Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, July 2008).

At each major meeting of the United Nations Programme of Action process in New York, a Trauma Foundation representative also arranged for the attendance of regional representatives and survivors of gun violence, particularly from the Pacific region, to speak at the United Nations on the adverse impact on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals of the proliferation and misuse of illicit small arms in Oceania. The Trauma Foundation will continue to support the United Nations in its efforts to reduce the impact of armed violence and to promote disarmament.

5. Union of Luso-African-America-Asiatic Capital Cities

(Special; 1993)

I. Introduction

The Union of Luso-African-America-Asiatic Capital Cities (UCCLA) is a non-profit, inter-municipal, international non-governmental organization. At the time of reporting, it included 27 cities around the world, as full and associate members. (Full members: former and present Portuguese-speaking capital cities in Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor-Leste. Associate members: cities whose population represents significant historical or cultural affinity with full member cities. Supporting members: 34 companies representing the main economic sectors (banking, communications, air transport, construction, public works, energy and tourism) and located in a Portuguese-speaking country.)

The Union's headquarters are located in Lisbon and its mission is to foster bonds of solidarity and cooperation between the member cities and to promote various initiatives that bring the cities, companies and institutions together to achieve greater peace, increased citizen participation, and harmonious development between them and, therefore, to pursue the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, namely to end poverty and hunger in all Portuguese-speaking cities.

This ideal will reinforce the common identity of the Portuguese-speaking countries, their "Lusophone identity". The Union constitutes a primary bond between the Lusophone community and also serves as the representative of the member cities in international bodies.

In November 2006, a new strategy for the Union was presented, approved and adopted, focusing on achieving the Millennium Development Goals by member cities.

During the reporting period, the following new members have joined the Union: Ribeira Grande de Santiago, Cape Verde (2006, full member); and Assomada, Cape Verde (2005), Porto Alegre, Brazil (2006), Gabu (2006) and Bafatá (2008), both in Guinea-Bissau, as associate members.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

During the reporting period, in 2005 contacts were initiated with the offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Brazil and Timor-Leste. In 2006, contacts were developed with the office of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Agreement was reached to draw up a partnership agreement to be between the Union and UN-Habitat. The Union has tried to streamline procedures for the signature of the agreement. Once the draft

agreement has been received, the competent bodies of the Union will take action on it.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In December 2003, the Union signed an agreement with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to rehabilitate the San Sebastian Fortress on Mozambique Island, which is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The work began in January 2008 after payment of $600,000 from the Union and $1 million from JICA.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Union contributed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, with major activities undertaken during the period 2005 to 2008 as follows:

Goal 2, target 3: Between 2000 and 2005, the Union was involved in coordination and monitoring of the functioning of the UCCLA School in Bissau on the basis of the guidelines related to developing and elevating the potential of each pupil and to enhancing the training, commitment and dedication of the professionals involved on the ground. The Union supported adequate training of teachers and sent educational material and appropriate equipment for the school. In school year 2008/09, the project Think Global, Act Global was carried out in Lisbon and Mundelo, Cape Verde, to implement multidisciplinary school projects in the context of education for sustainable development and the realities of "north" and "south", including sharing methodologies, training teachers and education professionals, developing new teaching materials and raising awareness in schools and school communities. It was approved and financed by the Portuguese Institute for Development Support (IPAD).

Goal 7, target 10: In partnership with local government in Bolama-Bijagos, between August 2006 and December 2007, the Union worked on a project related to community management of water, sanitation and education health in Bolama, Guinea Bissau. The main objective was deployment of a sustainable system to cover basic needs for drinking water and sanitation for about 7,000 inhabitants of 32 islands and to improve knowledge of water, sanitation, cleanliness, hygiene and public health. The project was approved and fully financed by IPAD. A project based on local initiatives related to hygiene in the neighbourhoods of Bissau aims to establish and implement a system for cleaning, removal and transportation of solid waste by mobilizing the communities, benefiting about one fifth of the population of Bissau. The project was approved in August 2006 by IPAD and continued being executed in 2008. On the island of Principe, Sao Tome and Principe, the aim of a project on environmental sanitation and awareness is to provide an organized and sustainable sanitation solution by clarifying and promoting the involvement of the population. Initially the target group will be elements of the women's association of Principe and staff of the local government. Ultimately the entire population of the island of Principe will benefit from the project since it will cover all the cities of the island. The project was approved in November 2006 by IPAD and continued being

executed in 2008. The Union is carrying out a project with IPAD and the Municipal Council of Bissau aimed at promoting public health. The project has a budget of about €400,000. The main goal is to improve environmental health and well-being of the population by strengthening the technical capacity and operational services of the Municipality of Bissau. The project is still running.

Goal 8, target 16: The Union has an agreement with the Institute for Employment and Professional Training to maintain at the Union's headquarters, an office of the Institute intended to publicize and promote employment opportunities among the Lusophone communities in Lisbon. The project had up to 6,800 users between 2000 and 2007, of whom 44 per cent plans received referrals for placement or job interview; 25 per cent were placed in training; 19 per cent were placed in the labour market; and 12 per cent in were placed in internships. The project was recognized by the International Organization for Migration, the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue of Portugal and the Luso-American Development Foundation. The office was closed in 2007.

In the period 2005 to 2008, several actions were submitted to the European Union for approval in support of Goals 4, 5, 6 and 7, of which four were approved in 2008, with action expected to be initiated during the first quarter of 2009.

D. Activities in support of global principles

A project called "Eight ways to change the world" aims to raise global awareness of the priorities of Portuguese civil society. It aims to promote sustainable human development and solidarity and create understanding and support in the broader Portuguese public on issues of development cooperation. The project aims to raise awareness of the Millennium Development Goals and encourage values and behaviours that favour solidarity, social participation and citizen responsibility. It is fully financed by IPAD and started in March 2008.

In Praia, a building destroyed by a fire has been reconstructed to be used as a cultural centre for the islands. The project was started in 2002 and concluded in December 2005, with an overall cost of €250,000.

In Dili, a project was initiated in 2002 to provide a new official residence for the President of Timor-Leste. The first phase of construction was initiated in May 2005 and the second phase took place in 2006.

A project to construct a primary school, nursery and kindergarten in the city of Sao Tome was initiated in October 2003 and completed in February 2006. The new school opened its doors to approximately 300 students of basic education early in the academic year 2006. The investment was €411,774.04.

A project to enlarge the UCCLA school in Bissau was initiated in 2003 and concluded in 2005.

The Union fully supported a project to rehabilitate a home for boys in Huambo, Angola. The facility was created and maintained by the Archdiocese of Huambo to shelter young people, mostly war orphans, and provide them with education and professional training. It was seriously damaged during the armed conflict in Angola. The project was initiated in 2004 and concluded in December 2005, for a total cost of €324,000.

The Union also fully supported a project to rehabilitate City of Lisbon Avenue in Praia. The avenue crosses the Cape Verdean capital and runs for more than one mile. The project was initiated in 2004 and concluded in 2005. The total cost of the work was about €1.9 million.

6. Women Environmental Programme

(Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The Women Environmental Programme (WEP) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-religious and voluntary organization established in 1997 by a group of grass-roots women in Nigeria, whose major aim is to address gender injustices related to the environment and the economic and social rights of women, children and young people in society. Its headquarters are in Abuja and it operates in the west African subregion with a liaison office in Liberia and three operational offices in Nigeria. There are 20 full-time staff members, three interns and one international volunteer. The Programme is registered as an non-governmental organization (NGO) in Nigeria, is administered by a Board of Directors and has an Executive Director who heads a management team for the day-to-day administration and operations. Its vision is to create a society where the environmental, economic, sociocultural and political rights of women and young people are protected.

The Programme aims to reduce the impact of flooding, erosion and desertification in target communities; stimulate the management of natural resources within the framework of national and international policies and conventions for sustainable development; address the issues of urban slums and housing settlement within the framework of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development; provide environmental education that creates awareness of issues of environmental pollution which affect the health of target communities; increase the percentage of women and young people in political leadership positions by 5 per cent in Nigeria; and enhance women's self-reliance through skills acquisition and microcredit financing.

The significant changes in the organization include a number of developments. In 2008, WEP developed a five-year strategic plan and now focuses on four thematic areas: the environment (water and sanitation, natural and manmade disasters, human settlement and forced evictions, and gender and climate change); governance (women and youth empowerment, and budget tracking and monitoring projects); peace and conflict resolution (electoral violence and processes, gender and human rights, and violent conflicts and communal clashes); natural resources (engagement of host communities and the relationship between the host communities and the companies and industries operating within their communities).

WEP had no constitutional review during the reporting period. At its annual General Assembly in January 2007, however, it was agreed that its programmes and activities should be expanded to cover the African region and beyond. It was also agreed that WEP could partner with other institutions and organizations across the world, provided that they agreed to abide by its aims and objectives; this resulted in the opening of the liaison office in Liberia and partnership with other organizations across the world.

The current membership now stands at more than 5,000 and its membership and networks span across Africa, the United States of America and Europe. Its sources of funding have also increased, to include Governments, the United Nations and

donors such as the European Community and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Although WEP is not affiliated with any other organization, the Programme belongs to national, regional and international networks and has partnered with other organizations in specific programmatic areas at all levels.

II. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Programme participated in the regional implementation meeting of the Africa Committee on Sustainable Development in Addis Ababa in October 2007 to lobby for the inclusion of gender issues in policies of agriculture and land. Through an initiative involving the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, WEP participated in the processes leading to the drafting and adoption of the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa, with particular emphasis on gender and land issues, which was adopted the African Heads of State in July 2009 as a policy governing the African Union on land. Members of WEP participated in the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the themes: "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women" and "Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS". WEP was elected to be one of the key partners in the women major group for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission for Sustainable Development. WEP, in partnership with the Global Land Tool Network, organized a side event during the sixteenth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development on the theme "Land for sustainable urbanization". The report of the side event was posted on the website of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the recommendations were integrated into the final report of the Commission. WEP held a side event on "Securing women's right to land and livelihood: implications for land policies in Nigeria" during the seventeenth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development. The recommendations of the side event featured prominently in the final report of the Commission. Members of WEP attended the Africa Development Forum event on women and land in Africa as one of the expert facilitators in November 2008 in Addis Ababa. WEP was a member of the fact-finding mission to Port Harcourt, Nigeria, led by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in March 2009. Members of WEP participated in the Durban Review Conference in Geneva in April 2009. WEP made a presentation on "Voluntary guidelines and gender" during the Expert Group Meeting on Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources, in November 2008 at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome. Members of WEP participated in the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in November 2005 and in the Economic and Social Council non-governmental organizations/civil society round table and interactive workshops for an interactive dialogue to ensure information and communication technology access for all. Representatives of WEP also participated in the United Nations Financing for Development Civil Society Forum, where they lobbied for budgeting and financing for gender programmes worldwide, in November 2008 in Doha. Members of WEP attended the sixty-first annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference

held in September 2008 at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris. WEP members participated in the electronic discussion on "Financing gender equality and the empowerment of women in Africa" in November/December 2007 promoted by the Economic Commission for Africa. WEP members participated in the electronic forum on gender evaluation criteria for large-scale land tools promoted by the Global Land Tool Network.

A. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

WEP partnered with UN-Habitat to organize a pre-Commission for Sustainable Development event in Nigeria in March 2008, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on gender mainstreaming in the process leading up to 2007 general elections in Nigeria, with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in the sensitization and awareness of women on political participation in Nigeria, and with UNDP in providing consultancy services for strengthening community-based early warning and conflict monitoring mechanisms in central states in Nigeria. WEP undertook capacity-building for women farmers in rural communities of northern Nigeria related to knowledge dissemination and innovative farming practices with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). It promoted a policy environment sensitive to gender equality and human rights in the Nigerian HIV/AIDS national response, in partnership with UNIFEM and funded by CIDA, and gender mainstreaming in governance through civic education in north-eastern Nigeria, funded by the European Community in December 2007.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Programme carried out activities to implement the Millennium Development Goals as follows:

Community-led total sanitation, funded by Irish Aid, with the government of Benue State and in partnership with WaterAid; promoting community participation of slum-dwellers, capacity-building and institutionalization of a federation for the urban poor in Abuja, funded by Misereor and Cordaid; evaluation of the International Year of Sanitation in northern Nigeria, financed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources and the United Nations Children's Fund Nigeria; monitoring the Virtual Poverty Fund projects in Nigeria, in partnership with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Millennium Development Goals; assessment of gender knowledge and awareness on climate change in northern Nigeria, in partnership with Noble Energy Solar Technologies Ltd. and financial support from CIDA; North-east women's political empowerment project funded by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs of Nigeria.

C. Activities in support of global principles

World Habitat Day was celebrated by the Programme in 2006, 2007 and 2008 with drama presentations, a walk for life and press releases. It observed World Environment Day in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 with various activities

ranging from seminars and workshops, to press releases, advocacy visits and media appearances. World Youth Day was observed by the youth department of the Programme with other young people across Nigeria in August 2008 in partnership with Global Xchange Forum and Voluntary Service Overseas.

7. World Council of Credit Unions

(Special; 1977)

I. Introduction

The World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) is the global trade association and development agency for credit unions. The Council promotes the sustainable development of credit unions and other financial cooperatives around the world to empower people through access to high quality and affordable financial services. It advocates on behalf of credit unions before international organizations and national Governments to improve legislation and regulation. Its technical assistance programmes introduce new tools and technologies to strengthen the financial performance of credit unions and increase their outreach. WOCCU is funded by grants from Governments and foundations, member dues and annual gifts from the Council's supporters.

At the end of 2008, the Council's international development programmes were strengthening credit unions serving 6.5 million people in 16 countries. Its programmes assist credit unions and national and regional associations to rebuild during and after conflict, provide access to the underserved, develop integrated business networks, support communities at risk, reconstruct after disasters and encourage legislative reform and regulatory system development.

Worldwide, 54,000 credit unions in 97 countries serve 186 million people. WOCCU members include regional and national credit union associations and business service organizations. Since The Council's last report, membership has increased to 40 organizations in 51 countries. WOCCU advocates for appropriate legislation and regulation with Governments worldwide. It serves as the secretariat for the International Credit Union Regulators' Network and every year organizes the international financial cooperative Regulators' Roundtable. In 2008, WOCCU organized regional regulators' round tables in Guatemala and South Africa.

In 2005, WOCCU produced an updated *Guide to International Credit Union Legislation* and an updated Model Law for Credit Unions. In 2008, the Council published the Model Regulations for Credit Unions and the *Technical Guide for Credit Union Regulation and Supervision*. These publications are available to WOCCU members in English, French, Russian and Spanish free of charge. Since 2007, WOCCU has produced the *Global Regulatory Update*, an electronic newsletter on regulatory issues throughout the world.

The Council also tracks credit union statistics, publishes *Credit Union World* magazine, sponsors International Credit Union Day each October and hosts regional technical conferences and the annual World Credit Union Conference. The International Partnership Program facilitates the exchange of knowledge, information and best practices in operations between credit union movements.

WOCCU's Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions manages the WOCCU programme to provide disaster relief, address priority needs and foster innovation for the credit union system.

The International Remittance Network is a platform for credit unions to provide access to safe and affordable money transfers (remittances). The Council's PEARLS

is a financial performance monitoring system combining a powerful relational database with an internationally proven methodology for improving operational efficiency. The Council's Services Group is a wholly owned subsidiary which supports WOCCU's for-profit endeavours such as card services, remittances and shared branching.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

From 2005 to 2008, WOCCU was involved in the following activities pertaining to the work of the United Nations and in cooperation with its bodies and specialized agencies: in 2005, WOCCU was actively involved and had significant interaction with the United Nations during the International Year of Microcredit and is currently working on making 2012 the International Year of Cooperatives; the Council has been part of the United Nations Advisory Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors and the production of the 2006 United Nations "Blue Book" *Building Inclusive Financial Sectors for Development*; in August 2006, WOCCU participated in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat gathering of international experts on cooperatives and employment in Shanghai, China; the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was the keynote presenter at the Council's 2006 World Credit Union Conference in Dublin. In 2007, the United Nations Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa spoke at the WOCCU Conference in Calgary. The Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) made a presentation at the Council's Conference in Hong Kong, China, in 2008; during 2007 and 2008, WOCCU worked with the UN-Habitat urban safety programme in East Africa to bring community development benefits to at-risk youth in Kibera, Africa's largest urban slum in Nairobi; WOCCU has recently participated in a United Nations expert group meeting to examine the role of credit unions in countering the effects of the financial crisis and credit union regulation and legislation. In addition, the International Cooperative Alliance, in the context of its cooperation with the International Labour Organization, has invited WOCCU to be part of its expert, cooperative Legislative Advisory Group.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

International development programmes carried out from 2005 to 2008 have contributed to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Major actions undertaken were the following:

Goal 1: WOCCU conducted a three-year programme (2007-2009) funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Kenya, Rwanda and Colombia with the goal to expand credit union services to extremely poor individuals. Since the beginning of the programme, the participating credit unions have almost doubled the number of members whose income is less than $1 per day, to reach a total of 206,564 people. As a result, the net worth of Rwandan and Colombian new credit union members has increased. Kenyan members' net worth has continued to decrease after the events associated with the post election violence; from 2006 to 2009, a programme in Peru expanded credit union outreach to the rural poor through market-driven

financial services and the enhancement of value chains. As a result, the percentage of credit union members that earned less than $2 per day dropped from 54 per cent to 44 per cent, and for those who earned less than $1 per day decreased from 14 per cent to 11 per cent. Overall, the members' incomes have increased by 22 per cent as attributed to the value chain product, and by 25 per cent as attributed to the programme's group lending product; in rural Mexico, where approximately 95 per cent of the population lacks access to formal financial services, the Council's three-year programme expanded financial services through credit unions to 200,000 marginalized people starting in 2008. The Council assisted 54 credit unions to open 240 rural points of service in central Mexico and to expand their services through its rural outreach methodology, *semilla cooperativa* (cooperative seed). The approach involved training rural field officers to attract new members, extend financial education and bring credit, savings and remittance services directly to people living in remote areas. The Council used technologies such as personal digital assistants, handheld printers and point-of-service devices to bring financial services to remote areas. The programme in Mexico implemented the Council's "MatchSavings.org" programme to help the poor develop saving habits; in 2006, the Council's Afghanistan programme implemented a multi-year credit union development project, which started up 18 Islamic investment finance cooperatives (credit unions) serving 33,400 members. Credit unions are providing to Afghan men and women for the first time the opportunity to join a financial institution that is owned, controlled and operated by the members.

Goal 3: the Council's programme in Peru has the objective of expanding market access to women by offering a group lending option. As at June 2009 a total of 204 groups bringing together 2,788 women had contributed to the mobilization of $141,627 in savings and $383,186 in loans, reaching women employed in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors; in Sri Lanka, the Council began a programme in 2005 to strengthen financial cooperatives, including the Women's Development Services Cooperative Society — a network of more than 120 branches owned and operated entirely by 64,000 women. The objective of the programme is to expand women's membership and help to increase their capacity through microloans and savings accounts; the Council's programme in Afghanistan has provided women with an equal opportunity to participate in credit union governance. A local representative from the Afghan Women's Association International serves on most credit union boards. In 2008, Afghan credit unions worked with the Ministry of Women's Affairs to establish a training centre to teach unemployed women income-generating skills. In November 2008, 20 women graduated from the first six-month programme and joined the credit union to access start-up funds for their new microbusinesses. Around 15 per cent of the Afghan credit union members are women; in 2008, WOCCU launched the first of its kind Global Women's Leadership Network, which brings together over 40 top women leaders in the credit union movements from more than 15 countries to connect, share ideas and participate in a peer advisory programme.

Goal 6: since 2006, the Council's programme in Kenya has educated 73,500 students about HIV/AIDS by implementing a member awareness programme in a credit union that serves school teachers across the country. The Council is training credit union peer leaders and peer educators to disseminate information at schools, public forums and community events about basic HIV/AIDS facts, comprehensive care and prevention and assessing HIV/AIDS risk and behaviour changes. The

objective of the second WOCCU programme in Kenya is to distribute scholarships to AIDS orphans to attend school. In 2009, WOCCU granted 431 scholarships to children whose parents had died of AIDS and whose caretakers could not afford the secondary school fees. Fewer orphans attend secondary school because the school fees are paid by the family, whereas the Government covers primary school fees. At the primary school level, the AIDS orphan rate in Kenya is around 30 per cent.